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### **Park Plaza Jobs Open Day Attracts over 600 local residents**

Set to open early next year, the £350m Park Plaza Westminster Bridge hotel in Waterloo has launched its recruitment drive with a specific focus on Lambeth residents. It will give a much needed boost to the local job market, offering sought after positions at all levels to locals first.

Over 600 residents attended the dedicated Open Day at the Community Hub (Lilian Baylis Old School) in Kennington on 1 October, which was hosted by Waterloo Job Shop to encourage local people to apply for the roles. Funded by Lambeth First, the event enabled jobseekers to hear direct from Park Plaza staff about the huge range of positions available as well as their personal experiences of working for the group. Waterloo Job Shop will be working with candidates to improve their skills and confidence and will be helping them through the application process.

The hotel has a diverse range of positions on offer in virtually all departments, including catering, security, housekeeping, reception, guest services, concierge, restaurants, bar and room service. Approximately 300 of these vacancies are entry-level, perfect for those looking to start their career in the hotel business.

Andrew Swindells, general manager of Park Plaza Westminster Bridge London said: "We are committed to providing a wide range of good job opportunities for people right here in our community. It will be a great opportunity for people to learn new skills as we provide on-the-job training, support and good benefits."

Anita Konzak, head of employment and skills for South Bank Employers' Group which runs the Waterloo Job Shop commented: "The Open Day was enormously successful and we are now looking forward to working with local applicants as well as ensuring that

everyone who registered with us on the day is kept abreast of jobs in the South Bank area. We will be holding another event in the new year which will focus on other jobs in the industry, including the area's top attractions and cultural venues.”

**For more information**

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**Notes to the editors**

**About Waterloo Job Shop**

- Managed by South Bank Employers' Group, the Waterloo Job Shop provides a free employer-led job brokerage facility. Its aim is to place Lambeth residents in local employment. The Waterloo Job Shop engages closely with businesses in the area to secure vacancies. Job seekers have access to a wide range of pre-employment training and workshops to develop their individual skills and employability. In 2008/9, the Waterloo Job Shop placed over 200 local people in jobs.
- South Bank Employers' Group is a non-profit association of the major organisations in South Bank, Waterloo and Blackfriars dedicated to promoting and improving the area. It also seeks to make a positive contribution to the lives of residents in the immediate neighbourhood and elsewhere in Lambeth and Southwark through employment, skills, community sports and cultural initiatives.